

Request for Proposals for Administration of the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation

This Request for Proposals seeks a nonprofit organization located within the boundaries of the Northern Plains Heritage Area to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide staff that will assist the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation (NPHF). The NPHF is developing a management plan for the Northern Plains National Heritage Area and requires assistance in conducting public meetings and preparing the plan. The recipient will also assist in preparing annual reports, managing funds in accordance with federal regulations, facilitating partnerships, raising matching funds, managing the heritage area, and conducting semi-annual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan. The recipient will carry out all activities under the direction and oversight of the NPHF Board of Directors. The nonprofit organization must have expertise in natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation; economic and community development; and heritage planning.

The NPHF is a nonprofit corporation licensed in the State of North Dakota. Its mission is to preserve, promote and develop the cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the Northern Plains region of central North Dakota along the Missouri River. In accordance with its bylaws, the NPHF works closely with federal, state, county, municipal governments, and the public to carry out its mission. It is responsible for representing the diverse interests of the Northern Plains Heritage Area, including federal state, tribal, and local governments, natural, and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners.

Funding

The United States Congress passed P.L. 109-338 which established the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, Inc., as the management entity for the NPNH. The NPNH is a stretch of the Missouri River, consisting of “a core area of resources in Burleigh, McLean, Mercer, Morton and Oliver Counties ... and any sites, buildings, and districts within the core area recommended by the management plan for inclusion in the Heritage Area.” The Act designated the NPHF as the local coordinating entity responsible for developing a management plan and managing the Northern Plains Heritage Area.

Congress then passed P.L. 111-11. Title IX, Section 8004 of that act states: “The authority of the Secretary [of the Interior] to provide assistance...” to the NPHF and authorized up to \$10 million in federal matching funds for projects in the National Heritage Area over the next 15 years. Funds will transferred to the NPHF through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS). That cooperative agreement is being finalized.

The NPHF may make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the Northern Plains Heritage Area or enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other parties within the Northern Plains Heritage Area.

Background of the National Heritage Area Program

The 49 National Heritage Areas established by P.L. 109-338 are places that have particular national significance. They are places where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. The Northern Plains Heritage Area combines all of the above - natural and scenic, and, cultural and historic resources of national significance. Heritage development is a strategy that encourages citizens, government agencies, nonprofit groups and private partners to collaboratively plan and implement programs and projects that recognize, preserve and celebrate many of America's defining landscapes.

Response to Request for Proposals to Include:

- 1) Identification of staff with a position description and resume for each;
- 2) Explanation of how assistance would be accomplished, including an annual work plan, budget, and schedule;
- 3) Summary of similar projects successfully completed by this organization;
- 4) Letters of support documenting similar management responsibilities.

The recipient will be responsible for complying with all applicable clauses in the cooperative agreement between the NPS and the NPHF. A cooperative agreement between the NPHF and the non-profit organization will become effective upon finalization of the cooperative agreement between the NPHF and the NPS and will be subject to the availability of funds.

The NPHF Board subcommittee will receive and review proposals and make a recommendation to the NPHF Board for approval.

The Northern Plains Heritage Foundation is managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

The officers are:

President:	David Borlaug, Washburn
Vice-President:	Signe Snortland, Bismarck
Treasurer:	Paul Trauger, Mandan
Secretary:	Keith Ulmer, Bismarck
Past President:	Sarah Vogel, Bismarck

For more information, contact Board President David Borlaug at dborlaug@fortmandan.org.

Timeline

Deadline for submission of proposals: February 15, 2010

Submit electronically to: David Borlaug at dborlaug@fortmandan.org.

